

THE VVHOLE AND
true Discouerye of Terra Florida,
(englished the flourishing lande.) Con-
teyning aswell the wonderfull straunge na-
tures and manners of the people, with the mer-
ueylous commodities and treasures of the
country : As also the pleasaunt Portes,
Hauens, and wayes therevnto Neuer
founded out before the last

yeere 1562.

Written in Frenche by Captaine Ribauld
the first that whollie discouered the same.
And nowe newly set forth in Englishe
the .xxx. of May. 1563.



Printed at London by Rowland Hall,
for Thomas Hacket.



The true discouery

of terra Florida.

Vhere as in the yere of
our Lorde God 1562. it
pleased God to moue
your honour, to choose
and appoynt vs, to dis-
couer and belve a cer-
taine longe coast of the West India,
from the head of the land called Flori-
da, drawing toward the south
vnto the head of Brittons, distant from
the sayd head of Florida 900. leagues,
or there aboute: to the ende we might
certifie you and make true report of the
temperature, fertilitie, Ports, Hauens,
Ryvers, and generally of all the com-
modities that be seen and found in that
land, and also to learne what people
were there dwelling, which thing you
haue long time ago desired, being stirred
therevnto by this zeale. That Fraunce
might one day through new discoueries
haue

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including names like 'Francis Drake' and 'John Davis'.

Extensive handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including names like 'Francis Drake' and 'John Davis'.

The' discoverie

haue knowledge of straunge countreys
and also thereof to receyue (by meanes
of continuall traffique) riche & inestima-
ble commodities, as other nations haue
done by taking in hand such far nauiga-
tions, bothe to the honour & pꝛouesse of
their kinges & pꝛinces, & also to the en-
crease of great pꝛofit & vse to their com-
mon wealthes, countreys & dominions,
whiche is most of all without cōparison
to be considered & esteemed. It seemeth
wel that ye haue bene stirred herevnto
euē of god aboue, & led to it by the hope
and desire you haue that a number of
brutishe people & ignorant of Iesus
Christ, may by his grace come to some
knowledge of his holy lawes & ordinau-
ces. So therefore it seemeth that it hath
pleased God by his godly pꝛouidence to
reserue the care which he hath had of
their saluation vntill this tyme, and wil
bryng them to our faith, at the time by
himself alone forseen & ordeyned. For if
it were needfull to shew how many frō
tyme to tyme haue gone about to finde
out

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out this great lande, & to inhabit there:
who neuerthelesse haue alwayes failed
and bene put by from their entention &
purpose: some by fear of shipwracks, and
some by great windes & tempests that
droue them backe to their mercurylous
griefe. Of the which there was one a ve-
ry famous straunger named Sebastian
Cobote an excellent Pilot sent thither
by king Henry, the yere 1498. & many
others, who neuer could attaine to any
habitation nor take possession there of
one only fote of ground, nor yet approche
nor enter into these parties & faire riuers
into the which God hath brought vs.
Wherefore, my lord, it may be wel sayd
that the liuing God hath reserued this
greate lande for your poore seruantes
and subiectes as well to the ende they
might be made great ouer thys poore
people, and rude nation: as also to
approue the former affection whiche
our kynges haue hadde vnto thys dis-
couerie.

A. 14.

For

The discoverie

For the late king Fraunces the first (of happyc memoꝛie) a pꝛince endued with excellent vertues. The yere 1524. sent a famous & notable man a Florentine, named Messire Jehan de Varran, to serch & discover the West parts as far as might be: Who departing frō Deepe with two vesselles litle differing from the making & burden of these two Pinnares of the kinges, which your honour hath ordeyned foꝛ this pꝛesent navigation. In the which land they haue found the eleuation the Pole, an big. degrees. The countrey (as he writeth) goodly, fruitefull, & so good temperature, that it is not possible to haue the better: being then as yet of no man seene, noꝛ discerned. But they being not able to byꝛing to passe at this first voyage that whiche he had entended, noꝛ to arriue in anye Port, by reason of sondꝛy inconueniencies, which commonly happen, were constrained to return into Fraunce: where after his arriuall, he neuer ceased to make suite vntill he was sent thither againe,

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again, where at last he died. The which occasion gaue small corage to send thither againe, & was the cause that this laudable enterprise was left of, vntyll the yere 1534. at which time his Maiesty (desiring alwayes to enlarge his kingdome, countreys & dominions, & thaduancing & ease of his subiects) sent thither a Pilot of S. Gallowes, a Briton, named James Cartiere, wel seen in the art & knowledge of nauigation, & especially of the North parts, commonly called the new lande, led by some hope to finde passage that wayes to the South seas: Who being not able at his first going to bring any thing to passe, that he pretended to do: was sent thither againe the yere folowing, & likewise le syze Hemerall, and as it is wel knowen thei did inhabite & bylde, & plant the kinges armes in the North part a good way in the land, as far as Tauadu & Ochisaon Wherefore my Lord trust iustly that a thing so commendable & worthy to be with good corage attempted that God

A.iiij.

would

The discouerie

woulde guyde & keepe vs , desiring al-
wayes to fulfil your commaundement.
When we had done your busines , and
made our preparations the .xviij. day of
February 1562, through the fauour of
God we departed with our two vessels
out of the hauen of Claue de Grace in-
to the road Taur : and the next day hoys-
ted vp sayle (the wynde beyng in the
East) whiche lasted so fyue dayes,
that we coulde not arrive at the nauch
that is from betwene the coast of Brit-
ton and Englande and the Isles of
Surlinos and Miskam : So that the
Wynde blowyng wyth great furpe &
tempest out of the West , and West
Southwest , altogether contrarie to
our waye and course , & all that we
coulde doe was to none effecte, besydes
the great daunger of breakyng of our
Galles , as also to be hyndered in our
other labours . Therefore as well to
shonne manye other inconueniences,
whiche myght folowe to the pꝛiudice
& bꝛeache of our biage, hauyng regard
also

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also to the lykely daunger of death, that
some of our gentlemen & souldiours be-
ing troubled with feuers & whot sickn-
esses, might haue fallen into : as also
foz other considerations , we thoughte
good to sal into the road of West in Bri-
tain, to set there our sick folke on land, &
suffer the tempest to passe. Fro whence
(after we had taried there two dayes)
we retourned againe to seaward to fo-
low our nauigation, so that (my Lorde)
albeit the wynde was foz a long season
very much agaynst vs , & troublesome:
yet at the end (God geuyng vs through
his grace & accustomed goodnes a mee-
tely fauourable wynde) I determined
with al diligence to proue a new course
which hath not ben yet attempted: tra-
uerfing þ seas of Actian 1800 leagues
at the least, whyche in dede is the true
and shorste course that hereafter muste
be kepte , to the honour of our nacion,
reiectynge the olde conserued opinion,
whyche to longe tyme hath bene hol-
den as trewe.

A.v.

Which

The discouerie

Which is, that it was thought a thing impossible to haue the wynde at East, Northeest, & keepe the race & course we enterprised, but that we should be directed toward the region of Affrica, the Isles of Canaria, Madera, & other lands thereabouts. And the cause why we haue bene the more prouoked & assured to take this newe race, hath bene because that it seemed to euerie one that we might not passe nor go in this navigation without the sight & touching of the Antillies & Lucaries, & there sojourn & take freshe waters & other necessities, as the Spaniards do in theyr voyage to new Spaine: whereof (thankes be God) we haue had no need, nor entered the chanell of Boham: whiche hath ben thought impossible. Forseeing also that it was not expedient for vs to passe through the Islands, as wel to shew many inconueniences that might happen in passing that waye (whereof springeth nothing but innumerable quarels pleadings, confusions, & breach of all worthie

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woorthy enterprises & godly nauigati-
ons, whereof ensueth complaints & odi-
ous questions betwene the subiectes of
the kyng & hys frends & alies) as also to
the ende they might vnderstande that
in the tyme to come (God hauynge she-
wed vs such graces, as these his won-
derfull benefites firste shewed to the
pooze people of this so goodly newe fra-
ming people, of so gentle a nature, & a
countrey so pleasant & fruitfull, lacking
nothyng at all that may seeme necessa-
ry for mans food) we would not haue to
do wyth theyr Ilands, & other lands:
which (for that they fyrst discovered the)
they keepe wyth much ielosye: trustyng
that if God wil suffer the king (through
your persuation) to cause some parte of
this incomparable countrey to be peo-
pled & inhabited with such a number of
his pooze subiectes as you shall thynke
good, there neuer happened in the me-
more of man so great & good commo-
ditie to Fraunce as thys, & (my Lorde)
for manye causes, whereof a man is
neuer

The discoverie

neuer able to say oꝛ wyte to the full, as vnder the assured hope that we haue alwayes had in executing byrightlye that which I had receyued in charge of you, God would blesse our wayes & nauigations. After we had constantly & wyth diligence in tyme conuenient determined vppon the waye, we shoulde haue thought it noysome & tedious to all our company, if it had befoze bene knowen vnto any without tourninge oꝛ waue- ring to oꝛ fro from their first entention. And not withstanding that Sathan did often what he coulde to solue many ob- stractes troubles & lettes, accoꝝdyng to his accustomed subtelties, so it is come to passe, that God by his only goodnes hath geuen vs grace, to make the fur- thest arte & trauiars of the seas, that euer was made in oure memoꝛie oꝛ knowledge, in longitude from the East to the West: and therefore was it com- monly sayd both in Fraunce & Spaine, & also among vs, that it was impossible foꝛ vs safely to arriue thither, whither
the

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the Lorde byd conducte vs. All whiche
persuaded but of ignoraunce & lacke of
attempting: whiche we haue not bene
afrayde to geue aduenture to proue.
Albeit that all Mariners Cardes do
set the Coasts with shipwacks wyth-
out Ports or Ryuers: whiche we haue
founde otherwyle as it foloweth.

Thursdaye the laste of Apryll at the
broke of the daye, we discouered and
clearly perceyued a faire coast, stret-
chyng of a great length couered with
an infinite number of high & fayre trees,
we being not past 7 or 8 leagues fro the
shore, the countrey seeming vnto vs plain
without any shewe of hilles, & appro-
ching nearer within foure or fyue lea-
gues of the lande, we cast an Anker at
tenne fadome water, the bottome
of the Sea beyng playne wyth muche
Marias and fatte holde on the Southe
syde, as farre as a certayne poynte
or Cape situate vnder that Latitude
of nine & twenty degrees & a half, which
we haue named Cape Francois.

The discouerie

We couldc espye neyther Ryuer nor Bay, wherefoze we sent our Botes furnished wyth men of experience, to sound and knowe the coast nere the Shore: who retournyng to vs about one of the clock at after noone, declared that they had founde among other things. bitt. sadom of water at the hard bancke of the sea, Wherebpon hauing diligently wayed bp our Ankers, & hoysted bp our sayles with wynde at wyll we sayled & belwed the coast all alonge with vnspeakable pleasure, of the odorous smel & beautie of the same. And because there appeared vnto vs no sygne of any Port, about the setting of the Sunne we cast anker agayne: which done, we did beholde to and fro the goodly order of the Woods wherwith God hath decked euery way the sayde lande. Then percepyng toward the North a leaping & a breaking of the water, as a streame falling out of the land into the sea. For the which we set vp sayles agayne to double the same whyle it was yet day. And as we had so done,

Seeing vs swiuy

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done, & passed beyond it: there appeared
vnto vs a sayre entrye of a sayre Riuer
which caused vs to cast Anker agayne
there nearer the lande: to the ende
the next day we might see what it was,
and though that the wynde blew for a
tyme vehemently to the shorward: yet
the holde & ankerage was so good, that
one cable & one anker held vs fast, with
out daunger or flydng.

The next day in the morning, beyng
the first of May, we assayed to enter this
Port, with two new Barges & a Boate
well trymmed, syndng lytle water
Barges whiche might haue astonied &
caused vs retourne backe to shipborde,
if God had not speedely brought vs in.
Where syndng. 536. fadome water, en-
tered into a goodly and great Ryuer,
which as we went sounde to encrease
styll in depth and largenes, boyling and
roxyng through the multitude of all
kynde of fysh. This being entered we
perceyued a great number of the In-
dians inhabitantes there, commynge
along

ingemery

f the 1st of May 1545


The discoverie

alonge the sandes & sea banckes, com-
myng neare vnto vs, without anye t-
kyng of feare or doubt, shewynge vnto
vs the easiest landyng place: & therebp-
on we geuyng them also on our partes
thankes of assuraunce & frendlinesse.
Forthwith one of appearaunce, out of
the best among them, by other vnto one
of theyr kynges, or gouernours, com-
maunded one of the Indians to enter
into the water: and to appoche our
boates to shewe vs the coastes landing
place. We seing this (without any more
doutyng or difficultie) landed, & the mes-
senger (after we had rewarded him
with some lookyng glasse, & other pretie
things of smale value) ranne incont-
nently towarde his Lorde: Who forth-
with sent me hys Gyrdle, in token of
assuraunce & frendship, which Gyrdle
was made of red leather, as well coue-
red & coloured as was possible: and as I
began to go towarde him, he set forth &
came & receyued me gentlye, & reysed
after his maner all his men, folowyn-
g
with

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With great silence & modestie: yea moze
then our men did. And after we had a
whyle with gentle vsage congratula-
ted with him: we fell to the grounde a
lytle waye from them, to call vpon the
name of God, & to beseeche hym to con-
tinue still hys goodnes towarde vs, &
bring to the knowledge of our Sauour
Christ this poore people. Whyle we
were thus praying (they sitting vppon
the ground, which was strawed & dres-
sed with Baye bolwes) behelde & harke-
ned vnto vs, very attentiuely without
either speaking or mouing: & as I made
a signe vnto their king, lifting vp myne
arme, & stretching forth one finger, only
to make them looke vp to heauenward.
He lyke wyse liftinge vp his arme to-
warde heauen put forth two fingers:
whereby it seemed that he made vs to
vnderstande, that they worshipped the
Sunne & the Moone for Gods: as after-
wards we vnderstood it so. In the mean
time their numbers increased, & thither
came the kynges brother, that was

The discoverie



first with vs, their mother, wyues, sisters & childe, & beyng thus assembled, they caused a great number of Baye boughes to be cut, & therewith a place to be dressed for vs, distant from theirs two sadom. For it is their maner to talke & bargaine sitting: & the chiefe of them to be aparte, from the meaner sorte, with a shewe of great obedience to theyr kynges, Superiours, & Elders. They be all naked, & of a goodly stature, myghty, sayre, & as well shapen & proportioned of bodye, as anye people in the worlde: verie gentle, curteyse, and of a good nature.

The mosse parte of them couer theyr Raynes & priuities with sayre Hartes skynnes, paynted mosse commonlye with sundrye colours: & the fore parte of theyr bodye & armes, be paynted wth pretie deuised workes, of Azure, red, & blacke, so well & so properly as the best Painter of Europe coulde not amende it. The women haue their bodies paynted with a certayne Herbe lyke

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lyke vnto Mosse, whereof the Cedar trees, & all other trees be alwayes covered. The men for pleasure doe alwayes trymme them selues therewith, after sundrye fashions: They be of Tawney colour, Hauke nosed & of a pleasaunt countenaunce. The women be well fauoured, & wyll not suffer one dishonestly to approche to neare them. But we were not in their houses for we sawe none at that tyme.

After we had taried in this North syde of the Ryuer the most parte of the daye (whiche Riuer we haue called Maye for that we discouered the same the first daye of the Moneth) we congratulated, made aliaunce, & entered into amitie wyth them, and presented the Kyng and hys brethren wyth Cownes of Blewe clothe garnysht wyth yelowc Flouredeluces. And it seemed that they were sorre for our departure: so that the moste parte of them entered into the water vp to the necke, to set our Boates a float.

B. y.

Put

The discouerie

Putting into vs sundrye kynde of fishes, which with merueylous speed they ranne to take in their paks, made in the water with great Reeds, so well & conningly set together, after the fashion of a Laberinth, or Maze, with so many turnes & crokes, as it is impossible to do it without much conning & industrie.

But desyryng to imploye the rest of the daye on the other syde of this Riuer, to vew & knowe those Indians that we sawe there. We trauersed thither, & without anye difficultie landed amongst them, who receyued vs very gently & with great humanitie: putting vs of their fruits, euen into our Boats, Molberies, Kaspis, & suche other fruites, as they founde ready by the way.

Soone after this came thither the king with his brethren & others with bowes & arrowes in their hands, vying there withall a goodly & a graue fashion, with their behauiour right souldierlyke, & as warlyke boldnes as may be. They were naked & painted as thother, their heare lyke,

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lyke wise long, & trussed vp (with a lace made of herbs) to the top of their heads: but they had netther their wiues nor childezen in their company. After we had a good whyle louynglye enterrened & presented them with lyke gistes of habbersher wares, cutting hokes & hatchets & clothed the king & his bryethzen with lyke robes, as we had geuen to them on the other syde: we entered & biewed the countrey thereabouts, which is the fairest, fruitfullest, & pleasantest of all the worlde, aboundynge in honye, benison, wylde foule, foyrestes, woods of al sortis, Palme trees, Cypres, & Cedres, Bayes the highest & greatest, with also the fairest vines in all the worlde, with Grapes accordyng, which without naturall arte & without mans helpe or trimming will growe to toppes of Oaks, & other trees that be of a wonderfull greatnesse and heyght. And the syght of the fayre Pedowes is a pleasure not able to be expressed wth tongue: full of Hernes, Curlaes, Bitters, Gallardes, Egrepths,

The discoverie

Modkokes, & all other kynde of small
byrdes: Wyth Hartes, Wyndes, Buc-
kes, wylde Swyne, & all other kyndes
wylde beastes, as we perceyued well
bothe by theyr footyng there, & also af-
terwardes in other places, by theyr
crye & roynge in the nyght.

Also there be Connies & Hares: Silke
woymes in merueylous number, &
great dell fairer & better, then be our silk
woymes. To be thot, it is a thing un-
speakeable to consider the thinges that
be sene there, & shalbe founde more &
more, in this incomparable lande, whi-
che neuer yet broken with Ploughe
yrons, bringeth forth the all thinges accor-
ding to his first nature, where with the
eternall God endewod it. Aboute theyr
houses they labour & tyll the grunde,
soluyng theyr fieldes with a grayne cal-
led Mahis, whercof they make theyr
meale: & in theyr Gardens they plant
beanes, gourds, cocumbers, citrons,
peason, & many other fruites & rootes un-
known vnto vs. Their spades & mat-
tocks

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tocke be made of Wood, so well & fitly
as is possible: whiche they make wyth
certayn Stones, oyster shelles & muscles,
wherewith also they make theyr bowes
& small launces: & cutte & polythe all
sortes of Wood, that they imploye a-
bout the byldings, & necessarie vse:
There groweth also manye Walnut
trees, Hasell trees, Cheritrees, verye
fayre and great.

And generally, we haue seene there of
the same Simples and herbes that we
haue in Fraunce, & of the lyke good-
nesse, saour & taste. The people be ve-
ry good Archers, and of greate
strength: Theyr bowe strynges are
made of Leather, and theyr Arrowes
of Reedes whiche they doe head wyth
the Teeth of fshes. As we nowe de-
maunded of them concernyng the land
called Neuola, wherof some haue
wrytten not to bee farre from thence,
and to be situate wythin the lande, & to-
warde the Sea called the south Sea.

B. iij.

They

Sachnewell

Jan 2

The discoverie

They shewed vs by signes that whiche
we vnderstood well inough, that they
might go thither with their Boates (by
Ryuers) in twentye dayes. They that
haue witten of this kingdome & towne
of Seuola, & other towne & kingdome
thereaboutes, say that there is great a-
bounaunce of golde & siluer, precious
stones, & other great riches: & that the
people had theyr arrowes headed (in
stead of yron) with sharpe pointed Tur-
queses. Thus the nyght appocheinge,
it was conuenient for vs to retourne by
daye a shypboorde. We tooke leaue of
them muche to their grefe, but more to
ours without comparison, for that we
had no meane to enter the ryuers with
our shyppe. And albeit, it was not theyr
custome eyther to eate or drinke frome
the Sunne rising till his goyng downe:
yet the king openly would needs drinke
with vs, praying vs very gently to geue
him the cuppe wherewith we had dronke;
& so makyng him to vnderstand that we
would see him againe the next day, we
retyr

Slouchere

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retzyed to our shippes, which lay aboue
fyr leagues from the hauen to the sea.

The next daye in the morning we re-
toured to land againe, accompanied
with the Captaines, Gentlemen, and
Souldiers, & other of our smale trope:
carying with vs a Pillour or Columnne
of harde stone, our Kinges armes gra-
ued therein, to plant & set the same in
the enterye of the Porte in some hygh
place, where it might be easely seene, &
being come thither before the Indians
were assembled, we espyed on the south
syde of the Ryuer a place verye fitte for
that purpose, vppon a lytle hyl com-
passed with Cypres, Bayes, Paulmies
and other trees, with sweet smellynge &
pleasaunt Mybbes. In the middle
whereof we planted the first bounde or
limitte of his Maestie. This done per-
ceyuing our first Indians assembled,
not without some mispyking of those on
the South parte, where we had set the
limiet, who taried for vs in the same
place where they met with vs the daye

B.b. before,

The discouerie

before, seemyng vnto vs that there is
some enimitie betwene them & the o-
thers. But when they perceyued our
long taryng on this syde, they ranne to
see what we had done in that place
where we landed first, & had set our li-
mit: which they viewed a great whyle
without touching it any waye, or abas-
sing, or ever speakinge to vs thereof at
any tyme after. Wherebeit we coulde
skant depart but as it were with grieve
of minde fro this our first alliance, they
rowling vnto vs al along the river fro al
parts & presenting vs w some of theyr
hart shyns, painted & unpainted, meale,
little cakes, fresh water, rootes like vnto
Kinbabe which they haue in great esti-
mation, & make thereof a potion of me-
dicine: also thei brought little baggs of
red colours & some small spices like vnto
Mace, perceyuing amonge them selues
saree things painted as it had bene with
grain of scarlet. Shewing vnto vs by si-
gnes that thei had in the land gold & sil-
uer & copper: wherof we haue brought
some

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some. Also lead like vnto ours which we
shewed. Also turqueses & great abound-
dance of pearles which as they declared
vnto vs thei toke out of oysters, wherof
there is take euer along the river side, &
among the reeds, & in the marches: & so
merueylous aboundaunce as is skant
credible: & we haue perceined that there
be as many & as faire pearles founde
there as in any countrey of the world.

For we saw a man of theis as we en-
tered into our Boates, that had a pearle
hangyng at a collar of Golde & Siluer
about his necke, as great as an Acoyne
at the least. This man as he had taken
fishe in one of their fishing packs therby
brought y same to our boats, & our men
perceiuing the greatnes thereof, one of
them putting his finger towarde it, the
man drew backe, & woulde no more
come neare the Boat: not so; any feare
that he had that they woulde haue ta-
ken hys Collar & Pearle from hym,
so; he woulde haue geuen it them, so;
a looking Glasse or a Lynse.

But

The discouerie

But that he doubted lest thei wold haue pulled him into the Boat, & so by force haue caried him away. He was one of the goodliest men of all the company. But for that we had no leasure to tary anye longer with them, the daye beyng well passed, whiche greened vs, for the commoditie & great riches, which as we vnderstood & saw might be gotten there, desiring also to employe the rest of the day with our seconde aliance the Indians on the Southsyde, as we perceyued them the day before, which still tarped looking for vs: We passed the ryuer to theyr shore, where as we found them taryng for vs, quietly & in good order, wth manye payntings vppon their face, & feathers vppon their heads: the kynge with hys Bowe & Arrowes lying by him, sat on the grounde strawed wth boughes betwene hys two brythers, whiche were goodlye men & well shapen & of a wonderfull shewe of attyrties, hauing vppon their heades, one heere trussed vpright of heeght, of some kynd of wyld beast

Of Terra Florida.

beast gathered & wrought together in
great conynge, sozethed & fasted after
the forme of a Diademe. One of them
had hanging aboute his neck a rounde
plate of red Copper well polished, with
one other lesser of Silver in the midst
of it, & at his eare a lytle plate of Copper
wherewith they vse to strype the swete
from theyr bodies. They shewed vs
that there was great store of this met-
tell within the countrey, about fye or
sixe dayes iorney from thence, both in
the South syde & North syde of the same
Ryuers, & that they went thither in
their Boates. Which Boates they
make but of one piece of a tree, wor-
king it whole so conningly & featly, that
they put in one of these Boates fiftene
or twentye persons, & go their wayes
very safely. They that rowe stande vp-
right hauyng their oars short after the
fashion of a Peele. Thus beyng among
them they presented vs with meale
dressed & baked, very good & well tasted,
& of good nourishment, also Beanes, &
fishe

The discouerie

fishes, as Crabbes, Lobsters, Crenilles, and many other kinde of good fishes, shewing vs by signes that their dwellinges were farre of, & yf they? provision had bene neare hande, they woulde haue presented vs with manye other refreshynges.

The night nowe appocheinge, we were fayne to retourne to our shyppe, very muche to our grieve: for that we durste not hazarde to enter wyth our shyppe, by reason of a Barre of Sande, that was at the enterpe of the Poyte, howe be it, at a full Sea there is two fadome & a halfe of water at the leaste, and it is but a leape ouer a surge to passe this Barre, not passyng the length of two Cables. And then forth, with euery where wythin fyre or seuen fadome water. So that it maketh a very fayre hauen, & shippes of a mean burden from foure scoze to a hundred tunnes may enter therein at all floods, yea of a farre greater burthen, yf there were French men dwelling there that
might

Of Terra Florida.

might shewre the entrys as they do in
France: for there is nothing lacking for
the lyfe of man. The situatiō is vnder the
elevation of xxx. degrees, a good climat
healthful, & of a good temperature, mer-
ciefull pleasaunt, the people good, & of
a good & amiable nature, whiche wyl-
lingly wyl obaye: yea be content to
serue those that shall with gentlenes &
humanitie go aboute to allure them, as
it is nedcfull for those y be sent thither
hereafter so to do, & as I haue charged
those y be left there to do, to thend they
may aske & learne of them where they
take their golde, copper, & turqueses, &
other thynges yet vnknoen vnto vs:
by reason of the tyme we sojourned
there. For yf any rude or rigorous
meanes shoulde be vsed towards thys
people, they would flye hither & thither
through the Woods & Forrests, & aban-
don they habitations and countreys.

The next day being the third day of
May, desiring always to finde out har-
bours to rest in, we set vp saile againe;
And

The discouerie

And after we had raunged the coast as neare the shore as we coulde , there appeared vnto vs about seven leagues of on this syde of the ryuer of May a great opening or Bay of some ryuer, whither in one of our Boates we rowed, & there found one entrie almost lyke that of the ryuer of May , & within the same as great a depth , & as large a deuidyng it selfe into many great streames , great and bzoade stretchinges towarde the high land, with manyc other lesse , that deuide countrey into faire & great lands and great number of smale & sayze Medowes . Weynge entered into them about thre leagues, we founde in a place very commodious, stronge , & pleasant of situation, certaine Indians , who receyued vs very gently: Howe be it, we being somewhat neare their houses, it seemed it was somewhat against their good wylles that we went thither , for at theyr cryes and noyses they made theyr wyues and chyldren and houtholde stuffe to be carryed into the

Of Terra Florida.

the Woods: Iholve be it they suffered vs to go into their houses, but they themselves would not accompany vs thither. Their houses be made of Wood fity & close, set by right & covered with Reedes: the most part of them after the fashion of a Pavilion. But there was one house amongst the rest very long & broad, with settels rounde about made of Reedes trimly couched together, which serve them bothe for beddes & seates, they be of heighth two fote from the ground, set upon great rounde pillers painted with red, yelow, & blew, well & trimly polished: some sort of this people perceyving that we had in no maner wise hurted their dwellings nor gardens which they dressed very diligently, they returned all unto vs before our imbarcking, seeming very wel contented by theyr geving unto vs water, fraites & hart shyne. It is a place wonderfull fertil, & of strong situation, the ground fat so that it is likely y it would bring forth Wheat & all other cozne twise a yere, &

The discoverie

the commodities for liuelihode, & the hope of moze riches, be lyke vnto those we founde & considered vppon the riuer of May, without comming into the sea: this arme doth deuide, & maketh many other Isles of May, as also many other great Ilands: by the which we trauell from one Ilande to another, betwene land & land. And it seemeth y men maye sayle without daunger through all the countrey, & neuer enter into the great sea, which were a wonderfull aduantage. This is the land of Cherere wher of some haue written, & whiche many haue gone aboute to fynde, for the great riches they perceyued by some Indians to be founde there. It is set vnder so good a climatic, that none of our men (though we were there in the hottest tyme of the yere, the Sunne entring into Cancer) were troubled with any sicknesses. The people there lyue longe and in great health & strength, so that the aged men go wythout stauers, and are able to go & runne lyke the yonge. of

Of Terra Florida.

of them, who onely are knowne to be
olde by the wrinkles in their face, & de-
cay of sight. We departed from them
very friendly, and with theyr contenta-
tion: But the nyghte ouertakyng vs,
we were constraind to lye in oure
shoppes all that nyght, tyll it was daye,
flooting vpon this Riuer which we haue
called Sene, because that the enterye
of it is as broad as from Hauer de grace
vnto Honelleue. At the breake of the
day we espyed out of the South syde
one of the fayrest, pleasauntst, and grea-
test medow grounde that might be
seene, into the which we went, syn-
dyng at the verye entyre a longe,
fayre, and greate Lake, and an innu-
merable number of foote steppes of
greate Hartes and Wyndes of a won-
derfull greatnesse, the steppes beyng
all freche and newe, and it seemeth
that the people doe nouryche them lyke
tame Cattell in great Herdes: for we
sawe the steppes of an Indian that fo-
lowed them.

C.ij. The

The discouerie

The channell & depth of this Riuer of
Seyne, is on the side of the medow that
is in the Ile of May. Being returned to
our shippes, we sayled to knowe more &
more of this coast, goying as nere the
shore as we could. And as we had say-
led about sixe or seven leagues, there ap-
peared vnto vs another Bay, where we
cast anker, & tarying so all the night, in
the morning we went thither, & finding
(by our sounding) at the entrie manye
bancks & beatings, we durst not enter
there wth our great ship, hauing named y^e
riuer Somme, which is 8.9.10.11 fadome
depth, deuiding it self into many great
Ilandes, & small goodly medow grounds
& pastures, & euery where such abun-
dauce of fishe as is incredible, & on the
West Southwest side, there is a great
Riuer that cometh from the coast
of a great length ouer: & another on the
South east side, which retourne into the
sea. So that (my Lord) it is a country
full of hauens, riuers, & Ilandes, of such
fruitfulnes as can not with tongue be
expressed;

Of terra Florida.

expressed: & where in short time great & precious commodities might be found. And besides this we discovered & found also 7. riuers more, as great & as good, cutting & deuiding the land into sayze & great Ilands. The Indians inhabitants there be like in maners, & the countrey in fertillitie apt & commodious throught out to beare & bring forth plentifully all that men woulde plant or sowe vpon it. There be euery where the highest and greatest Fir trees that can be seen, very well smelling, & whereout might be gathered (with cutting the onely bark) as much Rosen, Turpentine, & Franken- sence, as men would desire. And to be short there lacketh nothing. Wherfoze being not able to enter & lye wyth our great vessels there, we coulde make no long abiding, nor enter so farre into the ryuers & countreys as we would fayne haue done: for it is well known howe many inconueniences haue happened vnto men, not only in attempting of newe discoueries, but also in all places

C.ij. by

The discouerie

by leauyng theyr great vesselles in the sea, farre from the lande, vnfurnished of the heads & best men. As for the other riuers we haue geuen them names as foloweth: and vnto the Ilands ioyning vnto them, the same name that the next riuer vnto it hath, as you shall see by the portraictures or Cardes that I haue made thereof. As to the fourth name of Loire, to the fift Charnet, to the sixte Caron, to the seventh ryuer Belle, to the eyght ryuer Graunde, to the ninth port Royall, and to the tenth Belle Tuirir.

Upon Whitsunday the xxvij. day of May, after we had perceyued & considered that there was no remedye, but to assay to finde the meanes to harbor our ships, as wel to amende & trimme them, as to get vs fresh water, Wood, & other necessaries, whereof we hauinge opinion that there was no fayrer or fytter place for the purpose, then port Royall. And when we had sounded the entrie and the Channell (thanked be God)

we

Of terra Florrida.

We entered safelype therein wpyth our
shyppes, agaynst the opinion of manye,
syndynge the same one of the sayest
and greatest Hauens of the worlde.
Howe be it, it muste be remembered
least men appochoyng neare it wpythin
seuen leagues of the lande, be aba-
thed and affrayde on the Eastsyde,
drawyng towarde the Southeast,
the grounde to bee flatte, so: ne-
uerthelesse at a full Sea, there is
euerye where foure Fadome water,
keepeyng the right Channell.

In thys parte there are manye Ry-
uers of meane bygnesse and large,
where wpythoute daunger the greatest
shyppes of the worlde myght bee har-
bered, whyche we founde, no Indian
inhabityng thereaboutes. The Porte
and Ryuers syde is nearer then tenne
or twelue leagues vpywardes into the
countreys, althoughe it bee one of the
goodlyest, best, and fruitfullest coun-
treys that euer was secne, and where
nothyng lacketh, and also where

C. liij. as

The discourse

as good & likely commodities be found as
in other places thereby. For we founde
there a great number of Pepper trees,
the Pepper yet greene, & not ready to
be gathered: Also the best water of the
worlde, & so many sorts of fishes that ye
may take them without net or angle so
many as ye wyll. Also an innumerable
sorte of wyld fowle of all sorts, & in li-
tle Ilandes at the entree of this haven,
on the East North west syde, there is so
great number of Egrets that the bus-
shes be all whyte & couered with them,
so that one may take of the yonge ones
with his hand as many as he wyll carie
away. There be also a number of other
fowles, as Hernes, Bitters, Curleues.
And to be short, there is so many small
byrdes that it is a straunge thyng to be
sene. We founde the Indians there
more doubtful & fearfull then the others
before. Yet after we had bene in theyr
houses, & congregated with them, and
shewed curtesey to those that we found
to haue abandoned there through boats
myle,

Of Terra Florida.

meale, victuall, and small household
stuffe, & both in, not taking awaye no
touchyng any part thereof, and in lea-
ving in y^e place where they dyessed they^r
meate, knyves, Looking glasses, little
Beades of glasse, which they loue and
esteem above Golde & Pearles, for to
hange them at their eares & necke, and
to geue them to their wyues & childzen;
they were somewhat emboldened.

For some of them came to our Boates,
of the which we caried two goodly and
strong abourde our shypes, clothynge
and vntyng them as gently as it was pos-
sible. But they ceased not day nor night
to lament, & at length they escaped a-
way. Wherefore albeit, I was willing
(according to your commaundement &
memoriall) to bringe awaye some of
them with vs, on the Princes behalfe &
yours, I forbore to do so for many consi-
derations & reasons that they told me, &
for that we were in dout that (leaving
some of our men there to inhabite) all
the countrey, men, women, & childzen,

C.b,

would

The discoverie

would not haue ceased to pursue them
for to haue theirs agayne: saying they be
not able to consider & waye to what en-
tent we should haue caried them away;
and this may be better done to their con-
tentation, when they haue better ac-
quaintaunce of vs, and know that there
is no such crueltie in vs, as in other peo-
ple and nations, of whome they haue
bene beguyled vnder colour of good
faith: which doing in the ende tourned
to the doers no good. This is the ryuer
of Iordain in mine opinion, whereof so
much hath bene spoken, which is verie
faire and the countrey good, both for the
easie habitation, & also for many other
things, which shal be to long to write.

The .xx. of May we planted another
columnne or pilloz grauen wth the kings
armies on the south side, in a high place,
of the ntry of a great riuer, which we cal-
led Libourne: where there is a lake of
fresh water very good, & on the same side
a little lower towards the ntry of y^e hane
is one of y^e fairest fountains y^e a man may
drinke

God be our Spoke

Of Terra Florida.

Drinke of, which falleth by violence down
to y^e river frō an high place out of a red &
sandy ground, & yet for all that fruitfull &
of good air, wher it shuld seme y^e the In-
dians haue had some faire habitation.
Where we saw the fairest & the greatest
vines wth grapes according, & yong trees,
& small woods, very wel smelling, y^e ever
were seen: wherby it appeareth to be the
pleasantest & most comodious dwelling
of al the world. Wherefore (my lord) tru-
sting you will not think it amisse (con-
sidering the comodities y^e mai be brought
thence) if we leaue a number of men
there, which may fortifie & prouide the-
selues of things necessary: for in al new
discoveries it is y^e chiefest thing y^e maye
be done, at the beginning to fortifie and
people the countrey. I had not so soone
set forth this to our company, but many
of them affrayed to tary there, yet wyth
suche a good wyll and iolye roage, that
suche a number dyd thus offer themsel-
ues, as we had muche to doe to staye
they: importunitie.

And

The discoverie

And namely of our shipmasters & principall Pilotes, & suche as we coulde not spare. Wold be it, we left there butted the number of thirtie in all, gentlemen, souldiers & mariners, & that at theyr olone suite & prayer, & of theyr olon free wittes, & by the aduice & deliberation of the gentlemen sent on the behalfe of the Prince, and yours. And haue leftte vnto the forhead & Rulers (folowynge therein your good wyll) Captayne Albart de la Pierria, a souldier of long experience, & the first from the beginning wold offer to tary. And further by theyr aduice, choyse & wyll, insualed & fortified them in an Iland on the Northside, a place of strong situation & commodious, vppon a ryuer whiche we named Chenouceau, & the habitation and Fortresse Charlesote.

After we had instructed & duly admonished them of that they shoulde do (as wel for their maner of proceeding, as for the good & louinge behauiour of them) the .xj. day of the moneth of June last past,

● Of Terra Florida.

past, we departed frō port Koyall myn-
ding yet to vantage & view the coast untill
the 21. degrees of the elevation: But for
as muche as there came vpon vs trou-
blesome & cloudy weather, very incom-
modious for our purpose, & considering
also amonget many other things, & we
had spent our cables & furniture there-
of, whiche is the moste principall thyng
that longeth to them that go to discover
countreys, where continually bothe
night & daye they must lye at anker: al-
so our victualls being perished & spylte,
our lacke of Boateswaines to set forth
our row barges, & leaue our vessels fur-
nished. The declaration made vnto vs
of our Wyllots & some others that had
before bene at some of those places,
where we purposed to sayle, & haue ben
already founde by some of the kynges
subicetes, the daunger also and incon-
ueniences that might thereof happen
vnto vs: and by reason of the great mi-
stes & fogges whereof the season was
already come, we perceyued very well
where

Reverend
Saunders

The discoverie

where as we were, that we could do no
good, & that it was so late, & the good time
at season for to undertake this thing al-
ready past. All these things thus well
considered and weighed, & also for that we
thought it meete & necessary that your
honour should with diligence be adven-
tured (through the helpe of God) to re-
turne homewards to make relation
unto you of the effect of our navigation.
Praying God that it may please him to
keepe you in long health, and prosperitie.

FINIS.

Printed at London by Rowland Hall,
for Thomas Hacket, and are to be
solde at his shoppe.

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